

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 P. M. The House, adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M. and met again at 2 P. M.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following member took the oath and signed the rolls.

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai (*Surgeon-General*).

DEMAND FOR GRANTS—(contd.)

DEMAND I—EXCISE DEPARTMENT—(contd.)

MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI: Sir, I have just been remarking that the Department with which the Commercial public in Travancore has most to deal is the Customs Department. I can say, without fear of contradiction that although in the past we have not been feeling all right with regard to this Department, due to the energetic administration of the present head of the Excise Department, his subordinates in the Customs Department do their duties now efficiently and honestly and they are particularly good in their behaviour to the public in the course of their dealings with them. By saying all these I do not mean to say that there is no corruption at all in the Customs as for that matter I do not think that even the Excise Commissioner would say that no corruption is existing in the Customs Department. But all that I would say is that due to the very considerable improvements brought about in the method of working of the Department by the present Commissioner who has himself proved a terror and a nightmare to his subordinates corruption in the Department has been considerably reduced. The present head of the Department does not flinch from punishing the real culprits after making thorough investigations and enquiries concerning alleged corruptions. In view of that fact I am sorry that I have to oppose Mr. Kunju Panicker's motion. In this connection I would refer to the statement made by the Dewan-President that the honorable members of this House and the public should be prepared to come forward to mention definite cases of such corruption to enable the Government to make any enquiry satisfactorily. But, Sir, it may not be possible for every member to give evidence but it will certainly be possible for every member at least to bring those matters to the notice of the Government. I for one can say openly that Government have suitably dealt with a case which I brought to their notice. There is no difficulty in this matter. It is only the other way. That is it becomes the duty of every citizen and of every representative member of this House to bring forward instances of such corruptions to the notice of Government. In this connection I have to point out one thing more. The Officers of the Excise Department especially in the lower ranks are not paid in such a way as to keep them away from temptations thrown in their way. It may be that the finance of the State may be seriously affected. All the same while dealing with a fiscal department which brings the largest revenue to the State it behoves Government to consider whether the peons and the petty officers